

The Battle of Choices



Developing the Mind of Christ is one of the greatest challenges we face. It's not easy. The world around us doesn't help us.

- ▶ Society pushes the _____ of wrong
- ▶ Society tries to move ancient _____
- ▶ Society longs to _____ what is wrong

Do not be conformed to the world (Rom 12:2)

Understanding the Battle of Choices:

- Internal Battles (Personal)
 - most are not _____ of your personal battles
 - choice between what you want to do and what is the _____ thing to do (Lk 10:41-42)
 - often comes in the form of _____
- External Battles (family/congregationally)
 - many of these battles are _____ by others
 - choice between what is right and what is wrong
 - this battle is difficult because you are dealing with the minds and choices of _____

David Illustrates These Two Battles:

- **Internally:** lust for Bathsheba and his desire to number the people
- **Externally:** he ran in exile from his son Absalom who stole the throne

- When the Lord rebuked Peter for saying that He should never be killed and raised, Jesus said, "...you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's" (Mt 16:23). We often face the 'Peter syndrome' where our minds are not on God's business.

The Parabolic Contrasts

The word 'Parable' means to lay along side of. It is intended to be a comparison. The physical is compared to the spiritual. But often in these comparisons, contrasts are shown. The right choice and the wrong choice are presented. The right outcome and the wrong outcome. It is in many of these contrasts that we see the battle for the mind.

- Two Sons (Mt 21:28-31)
- Ten Virgins (Mt 25:1-13)
- Three Men with Talents (Mt 25:14-30)
- Two Sons (Lk 15:11-32)
- Two Debtors (Mt 18:23-35)

What are some common themes running through these choices? What is a consistent presence in each of these parables?



What We Know:

- ▶ Each Person has to _____ his own personal battles
 - Battles can make us _____
 - It is easier to go along than to _____
- ▶ _____ we can help each other with external battles
- ▶ Culture is always _____
- ▶ God's word is always _____ (Ps 19:7-11)
- ▶ God wants you to be _____ minded (Mt 6:33) and a _____ actively engaged in the kingdom
- ▶ We can be _____ when we walk with the Lord